

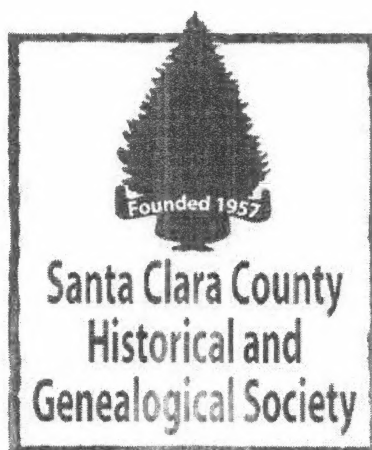
City of Santa Cruz

Municipal Report

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- Author unknown
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MUNICIPAL REPORT - SANTA CRUZ

CITY OF SANTA CRUZ, county seat of Santa Cruz County. This is a seaside, resort, and convention town. The population of 15,000 is largely made up of native American stock with a colony of Italians, mostly fishermen, and a sprinkling of orientals including Chinese, Japanese, and Phillipinos. There is a colony of Portuguese, descendants of a group who came from the Azores Islands in the early days. The town is built on the delta of the San Lorenzo River on the north spur of Monterey Bay, 78 miles south of San Francisco. All along the coast there is a narrow strip of fairly level land, never more than two miles wide. From this rise rolling hills gradually working up to the mountains. The San Lorenzo emerges from a narrow, rocky gorge onto a fertile plain. The business district of town is located on this low land on both banks of the river. Pacific Avenue (the main street of Santa Cruz) runs straight through the town ending at the beach. On both sides the land rises to low plateaus. On the east is Branciforte and Seabright; on the West the mission section.

Santa Cruz is reached from the north by three roads: State Highway No. 17, the main route from Los Gatos and San Jose through Glenwood and Scott Valley. Highway No. 1 follows the coast down from San Francisco by Half Moon Bay and Pescadero. The third road is the most scenic of them all. This is State Highway No. 9, the Sky-line Boulevard south from San Francisco. It follows along

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the summit of the Santa Cruz range affording a magnificent view from the ocean to the Coast range. At Saratoga summit the road turns west down to Watermans Gap and then along the San Lorenzo Drive to Santa Cruz.

Entrance from the south is over Highway No. 1 to Watsonville. From here this road continues on to Monterey and Salinas and the highway through Chittenden. Connects with U.S. 101 near San Juan Bautista. (See foot note).

EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES: Santa Cruz has seven public elementary schools, two junior high and one senior high. There are three Catholic schools, - two elementary and one high; the latter just for boys. There is a business college and The Caroline Swope Summer School for elementary teachers.

SOCIETIES AND ASSOCIATIONS: There are a great many district P.T.A. organizations, and the following: Rotary Club, Kiwanis, Lions, 20-30, Woman's Club, Soreptomists, Flower Lovers, Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, Rod and Gun Club, Skeet Club, Rifle Club, American Legion, Boy and Girl Scouts, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Daughters of the American Revolution, Elks, Moose, Woodmen, Eagles, Red Men, IOOF, Knights of Columbus, Native Sons and Daughters, W.C.T.U., Y.M.C.A., Yacht Club, Druids, B'nai Brith, and 4H Clubs.

CHURCHES: The town has many: Free Methodist, All Souls Unitarian, Messiah Lutheran, First Advent, Christian, Glad Tidings Tabernacle, First Church of Christ

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Scientist, Holy Cross Catholic, First Methodist Episcopal, First Congregational, First Presbyterian, Calvary Episcopal, First Baptist, and Seventh Day Adventist. There used to be an interesting Church in the Circle at the end of California street. Some years ago the church was destroyed by fire, but the circle remains in the center of a labyrinth of streets all going around in concentric circles. The Catholic Church, on High street, was erected in 1891 on the site of the old mission. Confessions are heard in Italian as well as English.

AMUSEMENTS: There are two theaters in Santa Cruz, and a third is now under construction. Both are only for movies, though they occasionally present road shows, but neither has equipment for a legitimate production. Amateur theatricals are usually given in the High School Auditorium.

The Casino and Boardwalk offer all the usual attractions. One may eat, drink, have photograph taken, ride the merry-go-round, roller-coaster, toy train, and Ferris wheel; play in the fun house; take speed boat drives; drive a boat, and play games of luck. The bay and the indoor plunge offer splendid swimming, and there is a fine wide beach for sun bathing. The slope is so gradual that aquaplaning is becoming very popular.

The Community Baseball Park on Water Street is modern and well built. The equipment includes flood

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lights for night entertainment. The Santa Cruz home team, the Padres, perform here, and added attractions include wrestling and midget races.

Polo is of great interest in the county, largely due to the leadership of Mrs. Demming Wheeler, one of the finest players in the West. Pogonip Club, reached by going north on River Street and turning left on Runge, is under her supervision, and specializes in polo for women. Pasatiempo, on the Los Gatos Highway just out of the city limits, also has polo, for both men and women. Marian Hollins, the famous golfer, runs this club. Here she offers swimming, golfing, tennis, riding, and steeplechase racing, - even an occasional rodeo.

Santa Cruz has excellent facilities for tennis. At Casa del Rey Hotel on Cliff and First streets near the beach the courts are free to guests, but outsiders must pay 25¢ per person. A state-wide tournament is held here every summer. The High School courts on California street and the Seabright courts on Mountain View Avenue are open and free to the public.

There are many places to ride and hike. DeLaveaga Park on the outskirts of the city at the end of Branciforte street contains 640 acres and includes 23 miles of bridge trails. This park is owned by the city. There are two riding academies within easy reach of the city, - the Dell Owens Riding Stables at Pasatiempo and the Rose Acre

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Riding Academy, one mile east of Sequel on the Watsonville-Santa Cruz Highway. Both of these stables are reliable and supply fine horses. Numerous smaller establishments spring up in the summer time.

For those interested in golf Pasatiempo has a very fine course. Fees are \$1.00 weekdays, \$2.00 Sundays. Monterey Bay Golf and Country Club, five miles east of Santa Cruz on the Watsonville Highway, charges 75¢ and \$1.00.

Santa Cruz has a Yacht Club that sponsors a regatta every summer. Many yachts come for this. It is a festive occasion. There are many privately owned out-board motor boats and speed boats at the Municipal Pier. Canoeing is popular on the river.

At the junction of Pacific Avenue and Beach Street are courts for bocci ball and horseshoes. These are usually well filled. Santa Cruz has sent many horseshoe pitchers into national competition with highly satisfactory results.

ACCOMMODATIONS: There are thirty-four hotels listed ranging in price from \$1.50 and up. Near the beach are lots of small cottages and apartments that may be rented for week-ends or longer. Good auto camp accommodations are easily available.

FOOTNOTE to TRANSPORTATION: Southern Pacific trains serve Santa Cruz with two main lines. One comes

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over the mountains to the north by way of Los Gatos and Glenwood. The other follows the coast line to Watsonville via Capitola and Aptos. From Santa Cruz a twelve mile spur line goes up the coast to Davenport. The line from Felton to Boulder Creek has been discontinued.

The Pacific Greyhound and Peerless busses run on regular schedule to the north and south. Headquarters for this service is at 143 Front street.

There is a landing field at Capitola but no regular plane service.

CLIMATE: Santa Cruz is noted for a very equable climate. The mean temperature is 56.3 and the rainfall averages 27.38. There is less fog here than at Monterey and practically no killing frosts.

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ART: Santa Cruz is definitely art conscious.
It ~~the~~ harbors quite a number of painters and holds an annual state-wide exhibit every February. The Santa Cruz Art League was founded in 1918 by Mrs. Charlotte Blazer and Miss Margaret Rogers. They took over the property of the defunct Seabright Crafts, an institution that had taught weaving and handicrafts. By renting the apartments in the building they managed to raise the funds to put in a sidewalk, fix the gardens, and make a small gallery on the ground floor.

The league is composed of active members, associate, and life members. The associates aid in raising funds for the annual by giving teas, plays, and social functions. They also assist during the exhibit by serving tea in the sun parlor adjoining the galleries.

Among the local group of artists who have achieved recognition beyond the county limits are Lenore Naylor Penniman, best known for her flower water colors, and member of many art associations and clubs, including the National League of American Penwomen and Western Women. She is one of the most active members of the Santa Cruz League and has done a tremendous amount to encourage younger artists, and to build up the State Wide to the important position it now occupies. Her pictures hang in the Fellowship House in Chicago, the Christian Science Sanatoriums in Chestnut Hill, Massachusetts and San Francisco, in the schools of Salinas, Live Oak, Branciforte, and Aptos. Mrs. Penniman

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has a long list of prizes, the most important being the National Water Color Prize awarded by the National League of American Penwomen from their exhibit in Chicago.

Miss Margaret Rogers specializes in marine paintings. She is the curator of the Art Gallery, and a tireless worker for the league. She too has a long collection of Honorable Mentions for her work, one in particular from the State Fair at Sacramento.

Cor de Gavere, landscape artist, a native of the Dutch East Indies, hung with the Royal Academy in England before coming to Santa Cruz. These three women are listed in "Who's Who in Art".

L. E. DeJoiner of Ben Lomond has gained his greatest fame by painting the redwoods among which he lives. His oils are familiar to most Californians and once took the popularity prize in the Oakland Municipal Art Gallery.

Edith Hamlin, a native of Santa Cruz, has acquired much success with her canvases, and some very interesting work on decorative textiles.

William Hyde Irwin of Brookdale has gained recognition in various types of art. Though he specializes in oil paintings, both figure and landscape, he does very splendid etchings and water colors. Mr. Irwin, a graduate of Stanford University, studied for some years in Europe before coming back to settle down in Santa Cruz County. His interesting collection of rodeo water colors are unusual

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in that they tackle the subject from back stage. Instead of the usual bucking horses he gives an authentic picture of the riders and ropers as they are between the acts. This group of paintings is of special interest to cowboys, cattlemen, and other hardy souls who know and love the range life. Prints and canvases by this young artist have been shown in France, San Francisco, New York, and Chicago, as well as with shows in other sections of the country.

Among the older artists who worked in this county are Frank Heath and Andrew P. Hill. Examples of their work may be seen in the Santa Cruz Library. The latter painter did much to publicise and preserve the redwoods in the Big Basin State Park.

Lillian Howard, for 40 years an art teacher in the local high school, exerted a strong influence on her pupils. She was best known for her pen and ink drawings.

The Santa Cruz Art League maintains a gallery open to the public free of charge on Pilkington street just off East Cliff Drive in Seabright. This is on the ground floor of the museum and is solely for the members of the league. The exhibit is changed every three months, - October, January, April, and July. There have been a few private shows and an occasional one-man exhibit, but these are the exception rather than the rule. In the Women's Exchange, 25 Walnut street, and the Casa Del Rey Hotel, Cliff and First streets, permanent shows are maintained by the league.

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The first Santa Cruz State Wide Art Exhibit was held in the Bayview Auditorium of the Casino in February 1928 and has been repeated every succeeding year. This show was sponsored by the Seaside Company and financed by S. W. Coleman, an associate member of the league. Mr. Coleman gave \$1000, of which \$500 was stipulated as a Purchase Prize for the best oil painting. The following year he also assisted financially but, after that, withdrew his support for the league proved itself capable of raising the necessary funds. Pictures are selected by a jury who award the prizes for oils, water colors, and pastels. The oils are then hung in the splendid Bayview gallery, a D-shaped room, large and well lighted. The water colors and pastels are hung in a smaller room, the two connected by a broad sunporch upon which the associate members serve tea every afternoon. In the mornings the show is open to school children attended by instructors. The interest among even the rural schools has been most encouraging.

The league offers the first prize for oils, the Santa Cruz Woman's Club maintains a purchase prize of \$100, and the Decorative Art and Women's Exchange offer a prize for color in honor of Lillian A. Howard, a charter member of the league and a great stimulus to the interest and development of art in this county. The Woman's Club retain the pictures they acquire through their prize to hang in a club building now under contemplation.

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An admission charge of 10¢ is necessary to help defray expenses. The show is becoming better with each succeeding presentation and now it quite justifies the years of labor and struggle expended by the league.

The Decorative Art and Women's Exchange offers a scholarship to deserving young artists. They have done splendid work in this line.

LIBRARIES: The Santa Cruz Free Public Library at 52 Church street was organized in 1868 by a voluntary association and adopted by the city in 1881. In 1902 Carnegie donated \$20,000, and two years later the new building was completed. This organization owns the \$3,000 Carnegie Garfield Park Branch Building, the \$3,000 Carnegie Seabright Branch, and the \$5,000 East Side Branch Building (partly a gift of Carnegie).

Among the collections found in this library are the Bruce Getchell and the Otto Kunitz Music Library, the most recent gift. Getchell was a miner from Alaska who came here, so runs the story, with a satchel of gold nuggets. He married and settled down to chicken raising, but soon tired of the monotony and returned to Candle, Alaska, where he remained until his death. In his will he left all his books to the Santa Cruz Library.

In the Children's Reading Room hang the paintings belonging to the Woman's Club. They are a temporary collection waiting here until the new club is finished. In the

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Main Reading Room are some old paintings, - two excellent views of early Santa Cruz by Frank Heath, and a portrait of Josephine Clifford McCrackin by Andrew Hill.

The Seabright branch is located on the 5½ acres that were a gift of Mrs. Bronson Peck of Chicago to the city of Santa Cruz in memory of William and Susan Tyrrell. On these grounds also stand the museum and art gallery.

The Santa Cruz County Free Library is part of the Public Library at 52 Church street. Santa Cruz is unusual in this respect. By agreement between the trustees of the library and the county supervisors this system was developed and seems to be entirely satisfactory to both parties. There are 82 branches, including those at Boulder Creek, Felton, Davenport, Capitola, and Aptos. The two most important branches are the \$2,500 Porter Memorial Building at Soquel and the \$1,200 Ben Lomond Branch Building. The Twin Lakes Branch on property owned by Twin Lakes Baptist Association was built by private subscription and donations of labor and material. The County Library was organized in 1916 and includes the entire county for tax and service, except Santa Cruz and Watsonville. Hours in this and the Public Library are 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., except Sundays and holidays, and Miss Minerva Waterman has charge of both.

The Santa Cruz County Law Library was established in 1896. Located in Room 3 of the Courthouse, it is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. week days. Other libraries are the Holy Cross School, LaSalle Parochial, the Santa Cruz High

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School, and the Santa Cruz County Teachers' Libraries.
The last named was established in 1889.

MUSEUMS: There are two museums in Santa Cruz, though only one is called by that name. The reliquary of the Mission contains some magnificent robes worn by the padres on state occasions. Some of the old record books are preserved in this room. They are nice volumes, hand made, and yellowed from time, but the writing is still legible and surprisingly fine. These contain the lists of births, marriages, baptisms, christenings, and deaths. In the corridor stands the baptismal font, made at the Mission, and used in all the early ceremonies. It is built of the sandstone so prevalent in the San Lorenzo Valley. In the chapel all the statues have been preserved; most of them were shipped to Monterey by boat and carried lovingly to their niches in the original church. Hand carved and decorated they have the true religious feeling so often found in primitive handwork. One of the nicest is the Virgin of Guadalupe. Some of the paintings are very lovely, primitive in conception, but sacred and tender.

This replica of the Mission was built in 1930 by Mrs. Richard Doyle, a devout Catholic whose faith and labors for the county are gratefully acknowledged by the townspeople. She is buried in the chapel of the Mission, as was her wish.

Services are held in the chapel, and it is open to the public. There is no admission fee, but any contributions are welcomed to aid in preserving the building. There

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are no regular hours of admission; the janitor of the Catholic church across the way acts as a guide for all interested parties.

The city of Santa Cruz has its museum in Seabright on the corner of East Cliff Drive and Pilkington street. Admission is free; hours of admittance are 2 to 5 Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday, and Sunday. The property on which it stands also contains the library, and was the gift of Mrs. Peck to the city of Santa Cruz. Unfortunately the collection is much too crowded and does not contain a great deal pertaining to this specific locality. The exception is the Hicox collection of sea shells given by Laura J. Hicox, for many years custodian of the Lighthouse. In the old days this was a very responsible job, for the light had to be tended by hand, and this remarkable woman (a cripple) climbed the narrow stairs every night to keep the signal burning all through the long hours. She was fond of study, and spent the time in reading about the sea life along this coast. She collected a great many interesting specimens of shells, and these she willed to the museum.

Included among the Pilkington collection are numerous Indian baskets and some fine semi-precious stones. These were given to the city on condition that they be displayed.

The fireplace in the main room is faced on either side by two splendid redwood burl pillars. These were chosen and polished with great care, for they are so grained and

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matched as to give the effect of draped curtains framing

the fire.

Perhaps the most unusual collection is that of

natural knots in the stumps and branches of the madrone

trees from Lake county. These assume the most fantastic

shapes and have been carefully polished and named by the

donor.

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POINTS OF INTEREST IN SANT BENITO COUNTY

in the town of San Juan,

SAN JUAN MISSION, located one block east of the business section of town, on the north side of the Plaza. One of the finest of the old missions in good state of preservation, contains many interesting relics, the gardens are especially lovely. Below the church is a section of the original Camino Real ^{or Spanish Mission road,} and many of the fruit trees planted by the padres. In the graveyard lie four thousand Indians.

THE CASTRO HOUSE on the west side of the Plaza in San Juan, very old adobe in bad state. For many years headquarters of the General Juan Castro.

THE PLAZA HOTEL, next to the Castro House, oldest hotel in town, built even before the mission, used as barracks for the soldiers.

THE ZANETTA HOUSE on the south side of the Plaza, scene of many historic gatherings. Still in excellent condition.

THE JUAN DE ANZAR adobe on the main street of San Juan, in good repair and now used for an antique shop featuring early California ~~things~~ ^{as} articles.

OMIT { PREMONT'S PEAK in the Gabilan Mountains a half hours drive from Hollister. (I have not yet found out the exact road but will get that done on my next trip to San Benito County.) Famous because it is the site on which the American Flag was first unfurled in California. A good road had been constructed and on the top are barbeque pits and picnic tables, also a 75 ft. flag pole

chit on which the flag is raised on the Sunday nearest the fourth of March every year.

BOLADO PARK nine miles south of Hollister on the Tres Pinos, Pinnacles road. Contains a golf course, dance pavilion, swimming pool, picnic tables and barbeque pits. Stadium, corrals, etc. for the annual San Benito County Horse Show and Rodeo held every August. ~~(Well worth your time to see this, if you like horses.)~~

PAICENES, ten miles south of Hollister on the same road, famous as the spot on which Vasquez sealed his fate ~~but~~ by a bloody raid. Used to be called Tres Pinos.

NEW IDRIA QUICKSILVER MINES, about 65 miles south of Hollister. To reach them follow the road to the Pinnacles through Tres Pinos and turn left at Paicenes, continue through Llanada and at the foot of the Panoche Pass turn to the right. These are the second largest quick-silver mines in the United States and have had a long and colorful history.

PINNACLES NATIONAL MONUMENT, 38 miles south of Hollister over a good road. ^{10,000}2,980 acres, no entrance fees, camping facilities. Especially lovely in the spring when the wild flowers are in bloom. Interesting rock formations on the spectacular side.